

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the non-final Official Action mailed March 1, 2006.

In the present paper, claims 1-8 and 17-24 are canceled. Claim 12 had been canceled in a previous amendment. Claims 9-11 and 13-16 remain in the case, and are presented here for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following remarks.

The Claims

In the presently outstanding Official Action, the Examiner has allowed claims 9-11 and 13-16. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for a careful consideration of those claims.

The Examiner has rejected the remaining claims on combinations including newly cited art. In order to expedite issuance of the remaining allowed claims, and without prejudice, Applicant has cancelled those rejected claims, and reserves the right to pursue those claims on the merits in a future continuation.

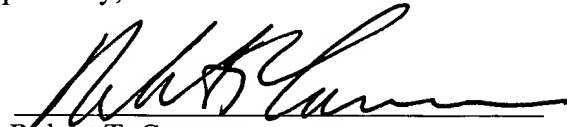
Conclusion

Applicants therefore respectfully assert that claims 9-11 and 13-16 are now in condition for allowance, and earnestly request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present case, the Examiner should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully,

By



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